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PEACE SENTINEL

Vol. 1

Bluffton, Indiana, September 5, 1941

No. 45

BYLER CALLED TO FRANCE

ON THE PEACE FRONT

Aside from the conscientious objectors in civilian service camps--mostly doing forestry, wild life, soil conservation, and land reclamation work--there are other American men and women, also of pacifist faith, who are serving the cause of peace and good will by performing service in this and other countries to lessen the sufferings of mankind in stricken areas. Much of the work has been initiated by the Friends Service Committee which has, however, recruited men and women of many faiths.

One of these projects begun only a few months ago is a reconstruction program at Tuxpan, Jalisco, Mexico. Here twenty seven young Americans have come to exercise their various skills in helping rebuild a Mexican rural community, devastated some time ago by an earthquake.

(cont. on page two)

CAMP DIRECTORS MEET

A significant conference of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors and the directors of all the Civilian Service Camps in the United States, with leading officials of the Selective Service System, was held at Winona Lake, Indiana, September 1-3. Representing the government were Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of Selective Service, and Col. Kosch and Maj. McLean of the Camp Operations Division of Selective Service. Various problems of camp operation and administration were discussed with these government officials.

Paramount among the issues of the conference was the question of the future of the camp program, particularly in respect to the financing of it. As the conference progressed, the feeling became more pronounced and unanimous that the churches should make every possible effort to continue to carry the project as at present.

(cont. on page two)

GUY HERSHBERGER NAMED

Following the resignation of Professor J.N. Byler as Educational Director of the camp to accept the position of Relief Work Director in France, for one year, under the auspices of the Mennonite Central Committee, Professor Guy Hershberger, head of the Social Science Department of Goshen College, accepted the position of Assistant Camp Director and Educational Director of the camp.

Mr. Byler, who arrived early this week, will leave Sunday for Akron, Pennsylvania where he will meet several members of the party going to France. After securing pass-ports in Washington, Mr. Byler will return to camp to continue his duties till the Hershbergers arrive. Then the Bylers will leave for Pennsylvania to await sail for France. Mrs. Byler and the children will remain in Akron where she will assume the duties of House Matron in the Akron offices.

The Hershberger family plans to move in and begin their work here by September the 12th. Mrs. Hershberger will take over the work of camp matron which is now Mrs. Byler's chief concern. Although Mrs. Byler has been here only a short time she has proven herself capable, congenial and proficient in her matronly errands on the campus.

Besides his work at camp Professor Hershberger plans to return to Goshen one day each week to teach two three hour subjects in social science.

Professor and Mrs. Hershberger are both graduates of Hesston College, Hesston Kansas. Mr. Hershberger also holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa.

PHIL FREY TO PREACH SUNDAY

Everyone in camp is pleased to learn that Phil Frey, former business manager and assistant director, will be back at the camp next Sunday morning September 7. Phil will bring the morning message.

ON THE PEACE FRONT
(cont. from page 1)

An odd sort of civilian training camp is a voluntary one in Pennsylvania for girls and women. Here the students are learning carpentry, first aid and public health, German, Spanish, gardening and dietetics. They are preparing themselves to work wherever they are needed after the war--in devastated areas of Europe or South America or at home.

A CHILD OF GOD.
(contributed)

What poor despised company
Of travelers are these,
Who walk in yonder narrow way
A long the rugged maze?

Ah! these are of a royal line,
All children of a King,
Heirs of immortal crowns divine,
And lo' for joy they sing.

Why do they, then, appear so mean,
And why so much despised?
Because of their rich robes unseen
The world is not apprized.

But why keep they that narrow road,
That rugged, thorny maze?
Why, that's the way their leader
trod;
They love and keep His ways.



WHO'S WHO

Who is this member of our camp? He comes from a community where there is much truck-farming and gardening. At one time he was a Bible School teacher teaching small children the German A. B. C. 's and spelling. Before coming here he was employed in a wood-working factory and his ambition is to learn carpentering. He is very fond of singing and another one of his hobbies is reading, especially Biblical literature. He has four brothers and four sisters.

(Last issue answer: Ivan Badertscher)

CAMP DIRECTORS MEET
(cont. from page 1)

Gen. Hershey himself emphasized that it would be greatly to the advantage of the conscientious objectors and their constituent groups to do so. Representatives of so-called non-peace churches expressed confidence that appreciation of the program was growing among their peoples, and that their support of it would be correspondingly increased.

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FRIENDS IN DEED!!!

Supporters of our camp culinary department are certainly not "growing weary in well doing". The following items have been contributed during the past two weeks: 10 gal. apple butter, 5 bu. apples, 5½ bu. peaches, 3 bu. grapes, 1 bu. plums, 1 gal. peanut butter, 4 gal. canned apricots, 3 qt. preserves, 15 gal. cider, D.A. Yoder & Goshon Neighborhood brought, 54 dressed chickens, 50 doz. cookies.

RECREATION

INDIVIDUAL BATTING AVERAGES

J. Kooi	.565	H. Wierich	.333
J. Weaver	.500	N. Raber	.322
D. Anderson	.500	Matthew	.315
L. Hershberger	.500	P. Kinzer	.300
Mel Yoder	.454	A. Eash	.300
E. Christner	.409	C. Gunden	.300
A. Jones	.409	P. Birky	.291
E. Hochstetler	.400	G. Smith	.285
L. Hartman	.384	W. Miller	.280
Gross	.384	D. Yoder	.272
Zook	.384	C. Reber	.260
McGee	.380	D. Weaver	.258
H. Birky	.368	J. Plank	.217
Mishler	.347	W. Hershberger	.214
Joe Weaver	.346	K. Miller	.214
M. Wengard	.333	J. Whetstone	.214
P. Liechty	.333	E. Schrock	.214
L. Miller	.200		

TEAM AVERAGE

Team A	.283	Team B	.290
Team C	.344	Team D	.277
Team E	.275		

The batting averages are the results of all games played this season. Taken as a whole, the averages are good compared with those of the major leagues.

* * *

FORESTRY PROJECT



Improvements continue to be made at the Wells County State Forest. These improvements, so far as possible, are made in such a way that nature will have her way with the woodlands and fields. It is interesting to see the work of nature in the growth of some of the trees.

Trees actually breathe day and night, summer and winter, inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide through minute openings in the leaves. Some leaves have as many as 100,000 of these openings, or pores as they are called, per square inch. Most of them are on the bottom side of the leaf.

Many of the boys are still spading and cutting grass on the 1,200 acres of forest land, being supervised by two forestry officials. A few days ago while doing this kind of work one of the boys was stung by a bumble-bee. The rest of the boys came to the rescue and put the nest of bumble-bees to flight.

Some of the boys not cutting grass are busy building better roads and filling in low places on the grounds near the state farm house. Willis Hershberger has been doing work on the house for the last few weeks, painting the second story floors, the cupboards, closets, and finishing the job by giving the outside one coat. The landscaping done by some of the boys has also greatly improved the appearance of the place. Mr. Earhart of the Forestry Division recently moved into the house.

We have dedicated ourselves to serve all men in everything that can be helping to the preservation of men's lives, but we find no freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in anything by which men's lives are destroyed or hurt."

---Mennonite petition to Pennsylvania government in 1775.

MISS RAMSEYER WRITES
(continued from page 5)

A chance to work with boys who were willing and capable in a kitchen. Boys who could find humor and fun in a situation which might have caused strife and ill will.

A new collection of ideas, such as chocolate mashed potatoes and a new use of baking powder, besides Harry Weirich's.

BOYS RUN LAUNDRY

Major McClain, while on an inspection tour of this camp made the remark to Rev. Hartzler that the men on Camp Maintenance work must work until their work is done, regardless of the number of hours required to do it.

Our laundry men have found this to be true even before Mr. McClain was on the grounds. From the time they start fire before breakfast to heat water for the laundry until the last piece of wash goods is gathered, sorted and soaking for the next days washing a period of from ten to twelve hours of continuous, tedious work is required.

Hard water is the chief handicap in doing a quick, clean job of the washing. Large quantities of water softener and soap are required to make the water at this camp useable for laundry purposes. ✓

Six Men on Crew

Six men are kept busy five days of the week and sometimes the work runs into Saturday until the last piece of ironed laundry is returned to its proper owner.

The major equipment used by the boys to do the laundry is --one heating unit for the water supply, one household size wash machine, two rinsing tubs, two ordinary electric irons, two ironing boards and a mangle.

The same men do the laundry from week to week for the entire camp group. They generally gather the wash in the evening, sort it out and soak all soiled items during the night. In the morning two boys start with the washing while the other four sprinkle, iron, sort and deliver clothes that were washed the day before. After the two boys are through with the washing they gather up the following days wash, soaking and sorting it for the next day, while the last washed clothes are drying on the outdoor line. On rainy days clothing are dried in the ironing room by the aid of heat from a furnace in that room.

Wash one Dorm each Day

There are four dormitory buildings. all the soild clothing from one building is washed in one day. On Friday the staff members clothes and extras are washed and the machine and laundry house are given an extra thorough cleaning at the end of each weeks washing.

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FAITH and WORKS
by R.L. Hartzler

THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

Published every other Friday by the
assignees of Civilian Public Service Camp
No. 13 at Bluffton, Indiana.

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Kitchen-----Dennis D. Lehman, Orville, Ohio
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A. Cleland Gunden, Goshen, Indiana
B. Troy Lorch, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
C. Lowell Hershberger, Nappanee, Ind.
D. Kenneth Miller, Kouts, Indiana
E. Elmer Gingerich, Hartsville, Ohio
F. Joni Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio
G. Frederick Miller, Bremen, Indiana
H. Levi Hershberger, Dundee, Ohio

In a recent Sunday School lesson, we were called to consider the importance of combining Faith and Works. "Faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone." (Jas.2:17) What is dead is motionless, unable to get ahead, or to bring things to pass. When I was a boy we had a book in our home, entitled "The Bible Looking-glass." In this book the above scripture verse was illustrated by the picture of a man in a boat with two oars, named "Faith" and "Works." When once I had had the experience of riding in a boat, the point of the picture came to me forcibly. A life, in order to progress, to move ahead and reach destinations, must have both; otherwise it goes round and round in its own little circle. The one great thing which Jesus looked for on the part of men was faith. Nothing surprised Him more than finding it where He least expected it, or failing to find it where He looked for it.

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EDITORIALS

Several months ago in a radio broadcast direct from England the announcer was describing some of the problems the farmers there trying to solve in their attempts to overcome the labor shortage caused by the war. Because the farmers needed help badly they had both girls and conscientious objectors sent them. According to the announcer the girls were willing to work but of course being only girls, the amount of work they could do was limited. On the other hand the "Conchies", as they were called, were a weak lot. They seemed to be afraid of the fresh country air. One of them wore a handkerchief over his face to avoid contamination. A farmer could get more work done with one of the girls than he could with two "conchies".


As long as we have freedom of speech in America no radio announcer will dare tell such a story about those of us who can not conscientiously participate in the futile brutality of modern war. Too many people have been too deeply impressed by the kind of work being done by the boys in our camps to make it likely that any would be so foolhardy as to try

to pass out such pretension.

Yet this is no time for us to rest on our laurels. We do not know about the future. The time may come when public opinion will undergo the change sure to occur if our America becomes more actively engaged in the world conflict. It is up to us to do all we can now to do those things that lie before us; to do them in such a way that when the change does come we will know, with a clear conscience, that we have done our work well. We will know that regardless of what men may say in the heat of their passion, we can face our God with the assurance that He understands and approves that which we have done. Our course is clear, let us pursue it.

---CML

M A'S EDITATIONS



by Alta Schrock

Dear Bluffton Lads,

Often I think of you and wonder what you are doing, how you are feeling, and how your dorms look. And daily I look for letters from you. Where are they boys?

The Denison Camp lies between the hills about one mile south west of town, with U.S. 30 skirting one side a few yards from the dorms and the railroad passing at our very back door. One hundred six swift passenger trains roar by every 24 hours, leaving their dust and smoke on our varnished walls and waxed floors. There are huge petunia and canna beds on our green lawn, and cement walks thread the place as if it were a village square.

There are eight dormitories, each with a possible capacity of 22 men. We now have 72 men, and tomorrow more are coming in--with the result that we will have at least thirteen states represented. There is also a large recreation hall, hospital, reading room, shop, small chapel, and bath-house.

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SPEEDS KITCHEN MIRROR

Our dining tables look very nice when they are all set and ready for a meal. The flowers with which we decorate them add a pleasant touch. There are eighteen of these tables in the dining hall with each one accommodating eight consumers.

We have nine table waiters who also wash the dishes. They are as follows: David Jones, Clarence Hershberger, Ray Thomas, Hartley Rhine, Albert Eash, Dennis D. Lehman, Paul Kinzer, Melvin Yoder, Elmer Bontreger. The cooks are: Lyle Strauss, David Anderson, Harry Weirich, Eli I. Miller, Norman Begley, Raymond Gerber, and Louis Lock. These boys represent four states, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Our new Canadian dietician, Myrtle Kolb is doing a fine job maintaining the high standards set by Miss Ramseyer.

Lowell Hartman helped us wash dishes one day and couldn't get his hand in a glass to wash it so he broke a piece out of the glass. He tried pretty hard anyway. We are hoping that he will have better luck next time.

BOYS RUN LAUNDRY (cont. from page 3)

Twenty to twenty two machine fulls of clothing is the average run for a day, and averages something like this in number of machine fulls per kind of clothing: two of white shirts, two every day shirts, one colored shirts, two pillow cases, two towels, two overalls and work pants other than overalls. The number of items washed per day runs an average of 400 to 428 with 2400 to 2500 per week.

Use Mangle

Most of the ironing, outside of dress shirts is done with the mangle. Wash pants are run through the mangle the length of the legs and the crotch is pressed with the iron.

The boys claim that it takes from one and a half minutes to three minutes to iron a work shirt with the mangle and from seven and a half to twelve minutes to iron a dress shirt of which there are on an average of thirty to thirty five per day.

The most tedious and tiring part of the ironing is the sorting and distributing of clothes. Each dormitory section is lettered and each man has a number; thus: Dormitory building No. 1 is divided into two sections, A and B. Each boy has a number. In section A the number with the letter A and in section B the number with the letter B, A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2, B-3, etc. Each man marks his clothing with his number and section letter. This enables the laundry men to know at a glance where the individual items belong.

Have Lost and Found Dept.

There is a lost and found shelf where the boys place unmarked items. It is on this shelf where one generally finds missing items which were lost in the weeks laundry.

Although the laundry men do not seem to be suffering physically from the work they are doing, there do not seem to be any other boys envious of their job.

We have been called many things, but one of the best we have heard came from a drunkard who staggered over to a bunch of the boys one evening and remarked:

"Are you part of them consecrated injectors up on the hill?"

---"The Plowshare", Camp Merom paper.

There have been several changes made in the personnel of the "Bluffton Peace Sentinel". The "Tid Bits" column is now being written by our new dietician, Miss Myrtle Kolb. Ernest Christner of Topeka, Indiana succeeds Max Swartzell of Elkhart, Indiana as circulation manager. He asks that if any subscribers failed to receive some copies of the "Sentinel" that they get in touch with us immediately.

FISH AND GAME PROJECT

The fish and game division's sickle gang is still away in the park, around the racoon pens and throughout different parts of the property. Some of the boys are hauling dirt to fill in around the brooder yard; making the place more attractive and convenient. Others are repairing pheasant shades provided for the comfort of the thousands of pheasants being raised.

Levi Hershberger and Elias Raber made a wash stand and repaired some of the furniture for the house provided for the assistant superintendent of the fish and game division. Levi also built a sand box for his children.

According to an article in the Fort Wayne "News Sentinel" the Conservation Department's exhibit at the Indiana State Fair is one of the most popular exhibits shown. A number of the animals and birds were taken from the park here. Harley Birky and Gordon "Porky" Liechty helped load the buffalo. It proved to be a bit of a job and made the boys feel some excitement to see one of the men carry a .35 caliber rifle "just in case".

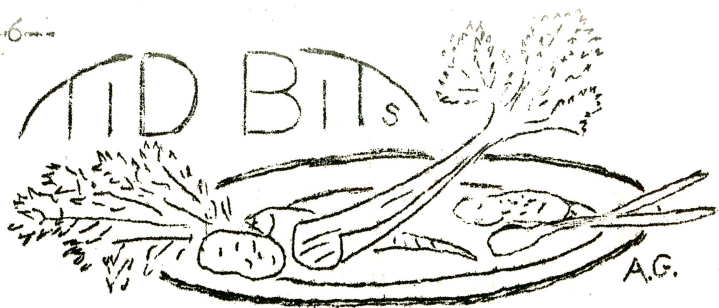
MISS RAMSEYER WRITES

"I am thankful for the following things that the Bluffton C.P.S. Camp has given to me this summer.

An acquaintance with one hundred and thirty-five Christian people. A keener realization of the importance of peace and our Christian responsibility in this present world situation.

An understanding of the plan the three historic peace churches have formulated for boys who believe principles of Christ are more important than earning money and going to war.

(continued on page 8)



To come into a project such as a C.P.S. Camp after the original organization has been completed and all the rest of the people have made their mistakes and learned from them is a rather strange experience. The boys go about their work in such an efficient manner and everyone seems to know just what his particular tasks are. Everything is so adequately taken care of that one wonders just what one's place really is and whether there is any good reason for being there. And it's amazing how insignificant one feels before a line-up of three huge army ranges, heated with coal and in turn, heating everything and everybody within a radius of four feet, and an array of fifteen and twenty gallon kettles.

Perhaps the first week instead of the first hundred years is the hardest. Then the salesmen begin to come and one makes lists and estimates and checks the prices of one firm against those of another so as to secure the best possible value at the lowest cost. The whole thing becomes a fascinating undertaking and we are just as elated about securing good bargains as the housewife is when she finds something extra-special at the Thursday grocery sales.

The entire set-up in a place of this kind is an eye opener to people who have always been accustomed to a family kitchen with mother presiding at the stove. And it is difficult for them to believe that the white capped aproned boys can cook at all, let alone turn out such palatable roast, and pies and salads. But they do it and with very little waste time and energy. And if anyone doubts I would simply say, "Drop in and see for yourself."

By Miss Myrtle Kolb

FAITH and WORKS (continued from editorial page)

Yet Jesus was a man of works,--works of mercy and of power. His faith issued forth in and through His works. He would have us do likewise. Unless we do, either faith or works can profit us little.

* * * *

"The road to peace is paved with bad preventions."



IN ^{AND} OUT OF DORMITORIES

Dorm D is the only dorm on the campus to have the honor of having boys representing six states, namely, Indiana 11, Illinois 2, Ohio 1, Michigan 1, Wisconsin 2, Pennsylvania 1.

Willis Hershberger was on the sick list for three days due to flue.

The boys of dorm F still appreciate the camp although for most of those who were home on week-end leave it was hard to come back Monday evening.

That tall handsome blond from dorm C, namely Wickie Miller, has had quite an interesting travel career. He has been in all the Western and Southern states except Louisiana and Arkansas and in practically all the Eastern states as well. He has traveled from New York to Los Angeles and from Seattle to Key West, yet has never been to Chicago although he lives a scant hundred miles from it.

The boys in dorm E have been a great help to Elmer Yoder helping him with the spelling and writing of his letters, as well as giving and making some news about which to write.

Dorm H misses Ivan Badertscher since he moved to the administration building, however they appreciate him as the new business manager. Dennis D. Lehman, who has been appointed captain of the dorm in his place, is proving to be satisfactory.

Raymond Gerber of dorm G woke up Friday morning and found his bed upset.

Hartley Rhine has been singing, "Eleven more Months and Ten more Days", most of last week.

The luckiest fellow in dorm B should be Carl Chester; he recently found a large clump of four and five leaf clover. On the other hand there is Louis Lock who has been constantly shadowed by the No. "13". He received his questionnaire on Friday the 13th, then he was sent to camp No. 13 and given mail box No. 13. When he was assigned to a bed it turned out to be numbered B13. Recently it was noted that there are thirteen windows to a side on the building of which his dorm is a part.

Willard Miller of dorm G is writing a lot of letters lately. Could it possibly involve a certain Miss Whetstone?

Amos Gingerich has been telling the Ohio boys that Illinois is a more prosperous and better farming state than Ohio. The Ohio boys find it hard to agree.

Joni Yoder failed to pay attention to the breakfast bell the other morning. He must have been fed and treated quite well over labor day.

The boys in dorm E spend some of their time evenings reading and singing.

Reuben Esch, who was on furlough for five days, treated the boys of dorm C to five watermelons on his return to camp.

Eli Miller requests that the tennis courtposts be padded or put farther apart. Eli is wearing a taped forehead as a result of one of his power dives for which he is famous.

Mr. Bumgardner of the State Game Division was in Dorm D Wednesday noon and played several fine selections of popular and hymnal numbers on the accordin.

The other night "Shorty" Hershberger thought that he was ascending to heaven. He came down with a jolt, discovering that it was only Paul Birky under the bed lifting it up.

In Dorm D the boys have nice decorative mottoes of Biblical sayings hanging on the wall above their beds.

In the absence of Lowell Hershberger Lyle Strauss and Harvey Stutzman contributed the news for dorm C this week.

One morning at breakfast Rudy Yoder asked for his second soft-boiled egg. Raymond promptly tossed him one, Rudy missed it with the result that his overalls were ready for the laundry.

A question recently asked the boys of Dorm B was "Why are you still single?" Some of the answers were:

Loris Habegger: "I met the girl six months too late."

Delmar Stahly: "I was born that way."

Reuben Esch, who comes from northern Michigan, says that he would have no trouble believing my last bear story about the cubs with kegs on their tails if I had not said something about cutting down a sycamore tree. He says there are no sycamore trees in northern Michigan. He is probably right for as I remember it that was the last one they had.

I have had other interesting experiences up there. Last year when I was on my annual hunting trip I took along my old muzzle loading gun. I took it out one day to go bear hunting but as I didn't seem to have any luck, I began shooting rabbits. Before I realized it I was completely out of bullets and so started back to my shack. When I was almost there I thought I heard a noise behind me. Just as I turned around an unusually large bear stopped out from behind a big elm tree, and started charging towards me. Being an unusually cold day even for that part of Michigan, the sweat drops froze solid. By this time I had regained my presence of mind sufficiently to take one of these frozen drops of sweat, quickly jam it into my gun, and shoot it at the bear's head. The bear being hot from chasing me, melted the ice shot and died of water on the brain.

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MA'S MEDITATIONS

(continued from page 5)

We girls, Miss Yoder and I, live in a small latticed cottage, and the gentlemen of the staff occupy rooms near the offices. The technical staff stays right on the grounds.

We have had very few Menmonite visitors, but many curious strangers have been circling the grounds, such as American Legion Hoods, University Profs, and Social Science Majors. They had read the write-ups in the big city papers. On the opening day Paul C. French was here, as were also Dr. Fast and his family and a number of reporters and photographers. Some boys arrived at 12 o'clock midnight and some at 3:30 in the morning. "Smitty" really was running a heavy bus-line for a while.

Most of the lads are farmers, but a number have taken work in Indiana, Kansas, and Nebraska Colleges. Music is quite popular here. When we called for an informal "Sing" Sunday afternoon, between twenty-five and thirty boys appeared and sang heartily.

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News bulletins from three other C.P.S. Camps have been received and eagerly read. We hope this avenue of fellowship and exchange of thoughts concerning "C.O.'s" common interests will be continually widened and eventually include all C.P.S. Camps. How about it, fellow-campers?

Below are some excerpts from some of the news bulletins received:

- - - - -

TWO SPANISH CLASSES ORGANIZED

Those anxious to begin the study of Spanish met Tuesday afternoon and chose Friday (6:45) as a regular night for study. Charlie Keethen will lead the class until a teacher is secured. --The Plowshare (Merom, Indiana-Ag 22, '41)

The Spanish class is progressing rapidly....The Spaniards are very unpopular, judging by the way the Americans avoid the supper Spanish table. Robert Stark will be the new teacher. The class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. --The Salamonic Peace Pipe (Lagro, Ind.)

.....It is our goal to keep you in touch with the program of camp, the work life, the serious thinking, and the periods of relaxation. It is our further purpose to give the boys in other camps as well as our own a clear picture of the task before us and to relate as we see them, the more important incidents that make up life in any camp. From time to time we hope to bring you some of the aspirations that boys have of making this period of constructive service a milestone in their lives. We feel that many of tomorrow's resourceful leaders may come from these C.P.S. Camps of today.

May the Lord guide and direct your life in a way of peace and service toward your fellow men.--San Dimas Rattler (Glen-dora, California. Ag 16 '41)

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A promise is a basis for expectation, A word of honor which must be redeemed; It may be mutually altered, But MUST be fulfilled at all sacrifices.

---Zoroaster

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